

1 **ENHANCED CMOS CIRCUIT TO DRIVE DC MOTORS**

2 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

3 1. Field of the Invention

4 The present invention is related to using an enhanced CMOS circuit to
5 form a driver circuit of a DC motor, and more particularly to an enhanced
6 CMOS circuit that is able to boost current gain, replacing the BiCMOS circuit
7 for the part of the driver circuit, in order to produce sufficient output current to
8 drive a DC motor of a portable CD player. Also, the present invention enables
9 the combination of different control circuits to be formed on the same chip
10 using an MOS process with lower production costs.

11 2. Description of Related Art

12 A BiCMOS circuit contains both bipolar junction transistors and
13 CMOS transistors, allowing for advantages of both processes to be exploited.
14 Bipolar circuits are inherently faster than the CMOS, and have shorter signal
15 delay and faster switching speed, making them suitable for high frequency
16 applications such as operation amplifiers, but CMOS circuits are preferred
17 where low power dissipation and high packing densities are required such as for
18 microprocessors and memory ICs. However, the production costs of hybrid
19 BiCMOS circuits are higher than those for CMOS circuits. For those
20 applications that do not require high frequency and fast switching speed, the
21 CMOS circuits are more frequently used.

22 But conventional CMOS transistors have their own limitations. The
23 small output current, due to the inherent driving impedance, is insufficient to
24 drive a DC motor or other digital motors. To solve that problem, a number of

1 alternatives are to be described below.

2 1. Increasing the channel width of CMOS: generally a CMOS channel
3 width is about 6,000um. If the channel width is increased to 16,000um, the
4 driving impedance (R_{on}) through the conduction channel of CMOS transistors
5 can be lowered to boost current gain across the CMOS transistors, thus the
6 output current can be increased. Using this method will increase the size of the
7 integrated circuit, which is contrary to current efforts to downsize components.

8 2. Increasing the gate-to-source voltage (V_{GS}) of CMOS: if the gate-to-
9 source voltage (V_{GS}) of CMOS is increased, driving impedance through the
10 conduction channel of CMOS can be lowered to boost current gain, so output
11 current will be increased. However, the CMOS generally exhibits low voltage
12 endurance, thus it poses a challenge for circuit designers to maintain the
13 operating voltage of CMOS circuits below 5V.

14 The input impedance of CMOS transistors is exceptionally high. Hence,
15 using the conventional CMOS technology, output current cannot be effectively
16 increased to meet the requirements of large current applications. To get around
17 the problem, designers choose to use CMOS for the part of control circuit, and
18 BiCMOS for the part of driver circuit. But then the combination of BiCMOS
19 and CMOS transistors on the same chip requires much more complex processes.

20 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

21 The main object of the present invention is to provide an enhanced
22 CMOS circuit that can form a driver circuit of DC motors, which are used in
23 portable CD players. The enhanced CMOS circuit is capable of lowering the
24 driving impedance of a CMOS conduction channel and boosting current gain so

1 as to produce sufficient output current to drive a DC motor.

2 The second object of the invention is to provide a CMOS driver circuit
3 that enables the combination of control circuits and driver circuits to be formed
4 on the same chip using a MOS fabrication process, thus the production costs
5 will be reduced.

6 To this end, the present enhanced CMOS circuit to form a driver circuit
7 of DC motors comprises a pair of switching stages and one driver stage.

8 The two switching stages are each formed by a pair of PMOS
9 transistors, connected in series, and a pair of NMOS transistors, connected in
10 series to form a push-pull circuit, wherein one end is connected to a positive
11 power supply terminal with a higher voltage, whilst another end is connected to
12 ground or to a negative power supply terminal; the node connecting the pair of
13 PMOS transistors and the pair of NMOS transistors acts as an output of the
14 switching stage; one of each of the two PMOS transistors and two NMOS
15 transistors are switch transistors to receive control signals; the other PMOS
16 transistor and NMOS transistor are load transistors with the gate electrodes
17 respectively connected to power sources with different control voltages;

18 whereby the first and second switching stages are controlled by input
19 signals of the logic control circuits in a way to produce complementary signals.

20 The driver stage is formed by a pair of NMOS transistors connected in
21 series, wherein the node connecting the NMOS transistors acts as an output to a
22 load (that is, the DC motor); the gate of one of the two NMOS transistors is
23 controlled by output signals of one switching stage, and the gate of the other
24 NMOS transistor is controlled by complementary signals from another

1 switching stage.

2 According to the present invention, the above mentioned driver circuit
3 is entirely formed by CMOS transistors. This enables the combination of the
4 driver circuit and control circuit on the same chip, using the MOS process alone
5 without the Bi-MOS process, thus the production costs of the circuits can be
6 reduced.

7 According to the present invention, one end of each of the first and
8 second switching stages formed by multiple CMOS transistors is connected to a
9 positive power supply terminal with higher voltage, which will lead to high
10 gate-to-source voltage (V_{GS}) over the NMOS transistors of the driver stage. As
11 resistance of the conduction channel is controlled by the voltage applied on the
12 gate, the high controlling voltage being applied on the gate electrode is able to
13 lower driving impedance (R_{on}) through the conduction channel of the NMOS
14 transistor and produce sufficient output current to drive a DC motor.

15 In the above mentioned two switching stages, the gate electrode of one
16 of the two PMOS transistors is connected to a first DC power supply with 1.5-4
17 V, whilst the gate electrode of one of the two NMOS transistors is connected to
18 a second DC power supply with 4.5 V, such that the gate electrodes of the
19 PMOS and NMOS transistors are to receive pulse signals with predetermined
20 control voltages.

21 In the above mentioned two switching stages, the predetermined
22 control voltage (1.5-4V) of the first DC power supply being applied on the gate
23 electrode of PMOS transistor (12) of the switching stage (10) and on one end of
24 the driver circuit is drawn from a battery (BAT), whilst the predetermined

1 control voltage (4.5V) of the second DC power supply being applied on the
2 gate electrode of NMOS transistor (13) of the switching stage (10) is derived
3 from the system voltage.

4 The above two switching stages and the driver stage are parallelly
5 connected across a power supply, with one end of the switching stage being
6 connected to the positive power supply terminal with higher voltage, equal to
7 the summation of output voltages of the first DC power supply and the second
8 DC power supply, and another end of the two switching stages being connected
9 to ground or negative power supply terminal. In such condition, it is possible to
10 apply high output voltage of the two switching stages over the gate of the
11 NMOS transistor in the driver stage in order to boost the gate-to-source voltage
12 (V_{GS}) of the NMOS transistor, which results in lower driving impedance (R_{on})
13 through the conduction channel of NMOS transistor and greater current gain
14 across the transistors.

15 According to the invention, since the second DC power supply is
16 derived from the operating voltage of the system, the output voltage of the
17 switching stage can be maintained at a relatively high level, and is not affected
18 by eventual flattening of the output voltage of the first DC power supply.

19 Other objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will
20 become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in
21 conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

22 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

23 Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the driver circuit of the present invention;
24 and

1 Fig. 2A-2I is a circuit diagram of the actual implementation of the
2 present invention on a driver circuit of the DC motor.

3 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

4 The driver circuit of a DC motor used in a portable CD player is shown
5 in Fig. 1, comprising at least a first and a second switching stage (10) (10')
6 (only the first switching stage (10) is shown in the diagram) and a driver stage
7 (20).

8 The first switching stage (10) is formed by a pair of PMOS transistors
9 (11) (12), connected in series, and a pair of NMOS transistors (13) (14), also
10 connected in series, to form a push-pull circuit.

11 One end of the switching stage (10) is connected to a positive power
12 supply terminal with a higher voltage, whilst another end is connected to
13 ground or to negative power supply terminal. In the present example, the supply
14 voltage of the positive power supply terminal is the summation of output
15 voltages of the first DC power supply (1.5-4 V) and the second DC power
16 supply (4.5 V).

17 The node connecting the pair of PMOS transistors (11) (12) and the
18 pair of NMOS transistors (13) (14) acts as output of the switching stage (10).

19 One of the two PMOS transistors (11) and one of the two NMOS transistors
20 (14) are tied together to share common input signals, and the gate electrodes of
21 the other PMOS transistor (12) and NMOS transistor (13) are respectively
22 connected to power sources with different control voltages to receive gating
23 signals.

24 The second switching stage (10') has the same quantity of PMOS and

1 NMOS transistors and the same circuit structure, that means one of the two
2 PMOS transistors (11') and one of the two NMOS transistors (14') are tied
3 together, and the gate electrodes of the other PMOS transistor (12') and NMOS
4 transistor (13') are respectively connected to power sources with different
5 control voltages.

6 The first and second switching stages (10) (10') are controlled by input
7 signals in a way to produce complementary signals to control the operation of
8 the driver stage.

9 In the present example, the gate of the PMOS transistor (12) is
10 connected to a first DC power supply (1.5-4 V), and the gate of NMOS
11 transistor (13) is connected to a second DC power supply (4.5 V), such that
12 the pair of PMOS/NMOS pairs (11) (12) / (13) (14) forms a voltage divider,
13 whilst individual PMOS/NMOS transistors (11) (12) (13) and (14) are still able
14 to operate with 5V.

15 The gate electrode of PMOS transistor (12) is connected to the first DC
16 power supply (1.5-4V) and the gate electrode of NMOS transistor (13) is
17 connected to a second DC power supply (4.5), wherein the power source for the
18 first DC power supply comes from the battery (BAT) of the CD player, (output
19 voltage of two batteries series connected); and the second DC power supply is
20 derived from the system voltage.

21 When the PMOS transistors (11) (12) are turned on, the output voltage
22 of the switching stage (10) will reach a high of 4.5V+BAT. Even though the
23 supply voltage of the battery (BAT) will eventually flatten out, the output
24 voltage of the switching stage (10) will be maintained at 4.5V+.

1 The driver stage (20) is formed by two NMOS transistors (21) (22)
2 connected in series, wherein the node connecting two NMOS transistors (21)
3 (22) acts as output to a DC motor (M); one NMOS transistor (21) is to receive
4 gating signals from the first switching stage (10); the other NMOS transistor
5 (22) is to receive complementary signals from the second switching stage (10');
6 and one end of the driver stage (20) is connected to the first DC power supply
7 terminal, and another end is connected to ground or negative power supply
8 terminal..

9 For the purpose of the present illustration, only the NMOS transistor
10 (21) of the driver stage (20) is described here, but the description is equally
11 applicable to the NMOS transistor (22) of the driver stage (20). Since the output
12 voltage of first switching stage (10) reaches as high as 4.5V+BAT, that means,
13 gate-to-source voltage (V_{GS}) of NMOS transistor (21) will also be increased.
14 Hence, the driving impedance (R_{on}) of NMOS transistor (21) can be lowered to
15 generate sufficient current for driving a DC motor. The operations of the
16 NMOS transistors (21) (22) are respectively controlled by output signals of the
17 two switching stages (10) (10') to provide inversion of an AND logic function
18 on the output.

19 Also, one end of the first and second switching stages (10) (10') is
20 connected to the positive power supply terminal with higher voltage, in which
21 the supply voltage is equal to the summation of output voltages of the first DC
22 power supply (1.5-4V) and the second DC power supply (4.5 V).

23 Since portable CD players are powered by battery (BAT), the present
24 invention is able to employ the battery, which is the first DC power supply, to

1 boost the output voltage of the switching stages (10) (10'), and as a current
2 source (V_{CC}) for the two stages of the driver circuit.

3 The trigger voltage of CMOS transistors will not be affected by
4 eventual flattening of the output voltage through the first DC power supply due
5 to power dissipation. Even though the supply voltage of the first DC power
6 supply (BAT) will eventually be flattened over a certain time, the second DC
7 power supply will be maintained at a high level, thus the gate-to-source voltage
8 (V_{GS}) over the NMOS transistors of driver stage can be maintained at relatively
9 high level.

10 In Fig. 2A-2I, a detailed circuit diagram of the driver circuit of DC
11 motor is formed using the present invention, in which the first and second
12 switching stages (10) (10') are respectively connected to the gates of the two
13 NMOS transistors (21) (22) of the driver stage (20) through a resistor, and the
14 output of the driver stage (20) is connected to a DC motor (not shown in
15 diagram).

16 In the above driver circuit, the first switching stage (10) is formed by a
17 PMOS transistor pair (MP2, MP3) and a NMOS transistor pair (MN16, MN17),
18 whilst the second switching stage (10') is formed by a PMOS transistor pair
19 (MP17, MP18) and an NMOS pair (MN20, MN21), in which the PMOS
20 transistors (MP2, MP17) and NMOS transistors (MN17, MN21) are to receive
21 input signals from the preceding stage; the PMOS transistors (MP3, MP18) are
22 respectively connected to PGND with control voltage (1.5-4V), and NMOS
23 transistors MN16, MN20 are connected to VG45 with control voltage (4.5V).

24 Using the above circuit design, the CMOS driver circuit is able to

1 produce sufficient output current to drive a DC motor in a portable CD player,
2 without having to use BiCMOS transistors. Accordingly, the control circuit and
3 the driver circuit can be formed on the same chip using a MOS fabrication
4 process, thus the production costs can be lowered and the circuit design will be
5 simplified.

6 In the aspect of electrical characteristics, since one end of the first and
7 second switching stages is connected to a positive power supply terminal with
8 higher voltage, the output voltages of the two switching stages can be
9 effectively boosted to charge the gate electrodes of the NMOS transistors of the
10 driver stage to a high voltage level. Hence, the gate-to-source voltage(V_{GS}) over
11 the NMOS transistors of driver stage can be raised to enable the reduction of
12 driving impedance(R_{on}) through the conduction channel and greater current
13 gain across the CMOS transistors to produce sufficient output current for a DC
14 motor.

15 Having the problems of low voltage endurance and high input
16 impedance associated with conventional CMOS transistors, under control, the
17 present invention is able to form a driver circuit, without using BiCMOS
18 transistors for the part of driver circuit, that is able to drive DC motor of a
19 battery-powered portable CD player. In the driver circuit, two switching stages
20 and a driver stage are employed, where each switching stage is formed by four
21 CMOS transistors connected in series, with one end of the circuit being
22 connected to a positive power supply with a higher voltage and another end
23 being connected to ground or negative power supply terminal. The switching
24 stages are able to produce high output voltages, which are applied on the gates

1 of the CMOS transistors in the driver stage to lower the driving impedance of
2 the conduction channel and to produce sufficient output current to drive a DC
3 motor.

4 It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous
5 characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in
6 the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of
7 the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in
8 detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the
9 principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general
10 meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.